THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The matter is in the advanced stage of inter-ministerial consultations. The final decision is likely to be taken soon.

Losses incurred by BSP

2563. SHRI SHIBU SOREN : Will the MINISTER OF STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bokaro Steel Plant has been incurring heavy loss during the last few years;

(b) if so, the details of the losses with reasons thereof in the last five years, year-wise;

(c) whether any inquiry has been ordered into the details; and

(d) the action taken against the official responsible in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) has incurred losses only in 1998-99 and in the first nine months of 1999-2000. The details of profit/loss (–) for the last five years is as under :

Year	Profit/Loss (Rs. crores)
1994-95	662
1995-96	806
1996-97	357
1997-98	367
1998-99	–165
1999-2000 (April-Dec'99)	–236

The reasons for losses in the last two years are :

(i) Sluggish demand for steel;

(ii) Greater competition from imports & enhanced supplies in domestic markets;

(iii) Increase in input costs;

(iv) Higher interest and depreciation charges on account of capitalisation of expenditure on modernisation of BSL.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Payment of workers in HSCL

2564. SHRI JIBON ROY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the workers employed in HSCL do not get regular payments by the Management;

(b) if so, the number of months for which different centres have not received payment of salary and other dues;

(c) the reasons for the delay of the payment; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure regular payment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The default in Salaries, Gratuity and P.F. in respect of different units of HSCL is as noted below :

Salaries	—	On an average, 9 months
Gratuity	—	14 months
P.F.	—	8 months

(c) Due to slowdown in the Steel Sector, the revenue earned by HSCL is much less than the net expenses on salaries and wages alone.